

onto the Mall: the committee's own power walker, "Flash Botuck".

To Joan, our heartfelt congratulations on a job well done and a career truly superbly undertaken! I join with her many friends in extending our thanks for the energy, diligence, and good humor you brought to your work. We will miss you greatly.

SALUTE TO THOMAS E. GOODWIN,
GOSHEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, this week Congress and the nation pause to honor the more than one half million law enforcement officers across the country who put their lives on the line each day to protect us and our families. These dedicated men and women are prepared to give what Abraham Lincoln called "their last full measure of devotion" so we can continue to enjoy the freedom and quality of life we sometimes take for granted.

Federal, state, and local police officers perform a great service for our communities. All too often they literally are the last thread between us and the forces of violence and chaos. We ask a great deal of the officers who protect us. We ask them to defend our homes and families; to patrol our roads and highways; and to bring justice to criminals and murderers who would otherwise prey on our society. We ask a great deal from this "blue line," but it never breaks and is always there to guard us. For this we owe the nation's police officers our deepest gratitude and our strong support.

One officer from the congressional district I represent, Thomas E. Goodwin from the Goshen Police Department, made the ultimate sacrifice last year while defending his community. The sadness and grief brought on by Officer's Goodwin's senseless death is a grim reminder that our law enforcement officers put their lives on the line every day. I join his family and Goshen in honoring his dedication and service to the Maple City. Just last week, Goshen dedicated a public park in Goodwin's honor, a strong reflection of how the community came together with a sense of caring after this tragedy.

This week we pay tribute not only to those who gave their lives, but also to every family—to every spouse, every child, every parent, and every friend. We pay tribute not only to those who died, but to those who have lost them, to the survivors. And we pay tribute to the law enforcement officers who continue to go to work each day, putting their lives on the line, in the name of freedom.

As we honor these heroes with ceremonies and flags standing at half-staff, we should rededicate ourselves to ending the violence that has taken such a toll on these peace officers. We can best honor their service by seeing that today's officers have the training, equipment and public support they need to accomplish their dangerous mission. to quote Lincoln again, our greatest tribute to these fallen officers is to see that they "shall not have died in vain."

IN HONOR OF JOHN HAMILTON, FINANCIAL SERVICES ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR, VICE PRESIDENT, BAY STATE SAVINGS BANK

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Mr. John Hamilton, Vice President of the Bay State Savings Bank in my hometown of Worcester, MA. On May 20, 1999, he will be honored by the Small Business Administration as the Financial Services Advocate of the Year.

As a leader, Mr. Hamilton plays a significant role in the bank's strategic planning by supervising commercial, residential and consumer lending. He personifies the "ideal" small business advocate, combining extraordinary technical and underwriting skills with a high level of creative thinking in accessing funding programs. This results in successful small business lending, particularly to the minority-owned businesses in the Worcester Community and the Central Massachusetts Region.

His multi-million dollar portfolio of loans to small businesses reflects his efforts and advocacy on behalf of small business throughout many of the communities which I represent. Mr. Hamilton is active in Centro Las Americas, Worcester's leading Latino Community Based organization, the Worcester Minority Business Council, the Worcester Banking Council Loan Committee, and the Worcester Chamber of Commerce.

Thus Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Hamilton and his efforts to lend a helping hand and for his contributions to the economic well-being of the community.

RECOGNITION OF ANTELOPE VALLEY HOSPITAL FOR THEIR AHA AWARD

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Hospital Week. It is a time when communities across the country celebrate the people that make hospitals the special places they are. The theme for this year's commemoration sums it up nicely: "People Care. Miracles Happen." It recognizes the health care workers, volunteers and other health professionals who are there 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, curing and caring, for their neighbors who need them.

An example of this dedication is the Sexual Assault Response Service of Antelope Valley Hospital in Lancaster, CA—which is in my district. This wonderful program won the American Hospital Association's prestigious Hospital Award for Volunteer Excellence, which highlights special contributions of hospital volunteers.

The Sexual Assault Response Service is a team of hospital volunteers that frees up hospital staff for other duties by offering specialized assistance to sexual assault victims, families, hospital personnel and law enforcement agencies. To meet the program's high stand-

ards, volunteers get more than 60 hours of training.

Responding to a call from any area hospital emergency department, they provide support to victims while helping solicit histories, preparing evidence collection kits, assisting with medical and legal examinations, and overseeing the completion of state forms. Volunteers work with the district attorney's office throughout the court process and offer one-on-one counseling, a referral service, a lending library and community education.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Antelope Valley for this outstanding program and congratulate them for this prestigious award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ASA HUTCHINSON

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 115, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present I would have voted "aye." I request that this explanation appear immediately following the vote on rollcall No. 115.

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED TO DESIGNATE WILSON CREEK AS A WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation, that when enacted, would designate Wilson Creek, in my district, as a Wild and Scenic River.

Wilson Creek is a free flowing creek which passes through some of the most beautiful scenery in the nation. It is home to a multitude of fish species, plant life and serves as a habitat for thousands of animals which live along its banks. From its headwaters below Calloway Peak on Grandfather Mountain in Avery County, North Carolina to where it empties into Johns Creek in Caldwell County, Wilson Creek meets or exceeds all the requirements for such an important designation.

Specifically, my bill would designate 23.3 miles of Wilson Creek as a Wild and Scenic River. In my opinion, having Wilson Creek designated as Wild and Scenic would help maintain the natural beauty of the creek while helping to improve the quality of recreational opportunities, like hunting, fishing, camping, canoeing and other activities for the thousands of people who would visit each year.

The potential designation of Wilson Creek as a Wild and Scenic River has received tremendous support from the County Commissioners from Avery and Caldwell County as well as local residents. In fact, when I met with the county commissioners of Caldwell County last month, I was presented with letters of support from local residents, positive newspaper articles and editorials, and a letter from the U.S. Forest Service which indicated a willingness to help us in this effort. I am convinced that the designation of Wilson Creek is well supported within the communities which surround it.

I believe that this is an excellent bill that would do much to preserve Wilson Creek,

turning it into both a natural asset and a national treasure. I urge its immediate consideration and enactment.

RECOGNIZING MIDDLETOWN REGIONAL HOSPITAL'S INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of National Hospital Week and to bring special attention to Middletown Regional Hospital in Middletown, Ohio. Middletown has been awarded the American Hospital Association's prestigious 1999 NOVA Award, which recognizes innovative programs that respond to community needs.

Middletown Regional Hospital is a 310-bed facility which is sole provider of Middletown's hospital services. In 1996, an alarming trend came to light: Middletown's readmission rate had quadrupled in just two years from 1.5 percent to 6.2 percent. Rather than ignoring the rate increase and simply collecting the additional revenues which accompany higher readmission rates, the hospital administration set out to determine the root causes of the problem and determine what, if anything, the hospital and its staff could do to lower rates. After discussions with community members and health care stakeholders, as well as a thorough review of the relevant data and literature, the folks at Middletown Regional Hospital determined that many patients lacked the financial resources and the general knowledge to properly care for themselves after discharge and as a result were using the emergency room as their primary source of medical care.

In an effort to stem the increasing readmissions, Middletown Regional Hospital implemented its "Making a Case for Community Health" program which is the focus of the NOVA award. Here's how the program works: a registered nurse, such as Deborah Tibbs, is designated as a case manager for as many as 40 chronically ill patients who have a history of high emergency room use. Patients are referred to the program by a variety of sources and enrolled regardless of whether their care is provided through Medicaid, private insurance, or even if they have no insurance at all. Deborah spends her time visiting with patients and educating them on how to "manage" their illness independently. She advises them on their lifestyle habits, answers their medication questions, and is only a phone call away 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide advice when one of her patients is having troubles. Deborah's services are provided free of charge to the patient.

The results have been dramatic. Hospital admissions for program participants have dropped by more than 50 percent, the average length of stay when they are admitted is down by more than one full day and, as a result, \$1.5 million less was spent on the care of these patients.

The "Making a Case for Community Health" program is a grand success because the hospital stepped up when they saw a community need and committed significant financial resources. The result has been better quality care and lower health care costs. I applaud

their efforts and hope other communities will follow their lead.

IN MEMORY OF THE LATE DR. FRANCISCO G. TUDELA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a friend who recently passed away. Dr. Francisco G. Tudela was a great man and a caring physician whose devotion to the sanctity and dignity of life will be greatly missed.

Dr. Tudela was born in Guantanamo, Cuba on July 19, 1919. Despite that fact that Dr. Tudela had risen to the position of Director of the Guantanamo City Hospital in Cuba, he went into exile because of his commitment to Liberty and Freedom. In 1960, Dr. Tudela moved with his family to the United States and practiced his specialty of Obstetrics-Gynecology in Newport News, Virginia before eventually settling in Miami, Florida.

Dr. Tudela was well-known for his opposition to abortion and always said that "Doctors are to save babies, not to kill them." He is credited with delivering more than 8,000 babies—many of whom owe their lives to his medical knowledge and care.

Dr. Tudela came from a family that has a long history of service to mankind. He was the son of the renowned Cuban physician, Dr. Francisco J. Tudela who graduated from the University of Chicago School of Medicine. He was also the grandson and grand-nephew of two valiant Cuban heroes of the Cuban War of Independence, Colonels José Enrique Tudela and Francisco José Tudela.

Dr. Tudela and his devoted wife, Mrs. Josefa Gonzalez Tudela, loving raised their two sons to continue the family commitment to medicine and children. Both sons, Dr. José Angel Tudela, a pediatrician, and Dr. Francisco G. Tudela, Jr., an obstetrician-gynecologist, are outstanding physicians in Miami-Dade County.

I will miss the friendship and wise counsel of Dr. Tudela. He always had a kind and encouraging word and I was filled with optimism after every opportunity I had to speak with him. I would like to express my profound condolences to Mrs. Tudela and her two sons at this difficult time.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BELLEFONTE AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ON ACHIEVEMENTS AT HISTORY DAY COMPETITION

HON. JOHN E. PETERSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of several students of Bellefonte Area High School in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. On April 7, 1999, Juniata College hosted the 1999 History Day Competition. This year's topic for students was to explain the impact a particular invention had

on society. Working long hours with their teacher advisors—Martha Nastase and Ed Fitzgerald—these Bellefonte High seniors exhibited scholastic excellence via an eagerness to share their acquired knowledge with peers and others.

Award winners in the Senior Group Project category—presenting on their topic of Animation—were Melissa Clark, Kendra Gettig, Kim Marchek, Elizabeth Rodgers, and Cary Ziegler. Also taking home winning ribbons in the category of Senior Media Presentation with their project on birth control were David Barningham, Greg Shoemaker, and Mike Wilson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all our House colleagues to join me in recognizing these Bellefonte High School students who brought deserved recognition to their school and community. Following their tremendous example, America's youth will no doubt shape a brighter tomorrow for all of us.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, on May 6, 1999, I was absent on official business and missed rollcall votes 119 (the Istook amendment to H.R. 1664) and 120 (final passage on H.R. 1664, the Kosovo and Southwest Asia Supplemental Appropriations Act). Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on both votes.

EXPOSING RACISM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in my continuing efforts to document and expose racism in America, I submit the following articles into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

JUDGE CLEARS WAY FOR TRIAL OF FIVE WHITES IN 1970 KILLING OF BLACK MAN

BELZONI, MISS. (AP).—The rejection of speedy trial arguments has apparently cleared the way for five white men to stand trial for murder in the beating death of a black man almost three decades ago.

Humphreys County Circuit Judge Jannie Lewis on Thursday rejected claims by defense attorneys that ordering a trial now would violate the rights of the men.

Lewis ruled the state Supreme Court had earlier rejected similar speedy trial arguments in the case of Byron De La Beckwith, convicted in 1994 in the ambush slaying of black leader Medgar Evers in Jackson.

The five are accused of killing 54-year-old Rainey Pool in April 1970. Authorities said the sharecropper was beaten to death and his body thrown into the Sunflower River.

Charged with murder are Joe Oliver Watson, 56, of Rolling Fork; James "Doc" Caston, 65, of Satartia; his brother, Charles E. Caston, 60, of Holly Bluff; Hal Crimm, 49, of Vicksburg; and Dennis Howell Newton, 49, of Flora.